

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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OES-09 DODE-00 PM-05 NRC-05 L-03 SP-02 INRE-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3174
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12419

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM UN UR US
SUBJECT: SOVIET STATEMENT ON PROTOCOL II TO THE TREATY
OF TLATELOLCO

REFS: (A) STATE 197576; (B) MOSCOW 18910

1. ON MORNING AUGUST 11 NEIDLE (US) MET WITH TIMERBAEV (USSR), IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF A, TO RAISE ISSUE OF SOVIET STATEMENT MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ITS SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. NEIDLE SET FORTH US POSITION ON THE SOVIET STATEMENT, ADVISED TIMERBAEV OF OUR INTENTIONS, AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF PROPOSED US STATEMENT CONTAINED REF A. NEIDLE ASKED TIMERBAEV TO RELAY TEXT TO MOSCOW AND TO URGE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS THERE TO REVIEW THEIR POSITION AND REFRAIN FROM USING THE PHRASE IN THEIR STATEMENT TO WHICH WE TAKE OBJECTION. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THE SOVIETS ADVISE US OF THEIR INTENTION AS SOON AS A DECISION IS REACHED.

2. TIMERBAEV SAID THE SOVIET DECISION TO SIGN THE
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PROTOCOL WAS MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND A DESIRE TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF WORLDWIDE AND REGIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION. HE WOULD RAISE OUR POSITION WITH OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW AND "SEE WHAT HE COULD DO ABOUT IT." HE THEN REFERRED TO THE OMISSION IN THE US QUOTATION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS OMISSION. HE NOTED THAT FULL SOVIET

STATEMENT WOULD HAVE INCLUDED REFERENCE TO CONTRADICTION OF THE GOALS OF THE PREAMBLE.

3. NEIDLE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THERE WAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE OMISSION. PRESUMABLY, THE INTENTION WAS TO HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT SOVIET STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT PERMISSION FOR TRANSIT WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH OBLIGATIONS DEFINED IN ARTICLE I OF THE TREATY, SINCE THAT WAS THE STATEMENT WHICH WE DID NOT AGREE WITH AND WHICH WE WANTED SOVIETS TO RECONSIDER.

4. TIMERBAEV THANKED NEIDLE FOR THIS EXPLANATION AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE TWO OTHER NPT-RELATED ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT WHEN HE HAD LAST SEEN JOE NYE, NYE HAD SAID HE WAS LEAVING FOR PARIS AND THAT AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH AND OTHERS ON THE SUPPLIERS GROUP, HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH TIMERBAEV. ALSO, HE HAD HEARD THAT GERALD SMITH WAS GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD READ A REPORT IN THE PRESS PREDICTING SOUTH AFRICAN ACCESSION TO THE NPT IN A MATTER OF DAYS. HE ASKED WHETHER ANY FURTHER INFORMATION COULD BE SUPPLIED ON EITHER OF THESE SUBJECTS.

5. NEIDLE REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON EITHER SUBJECT BUT WOULD BE HAPPY TO RELAY TIMERBAEV'S QUERIES TO WASHINGTON. TIMERBAEV EXPRESSED HIS THANKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTING THAT WHILE SUCH ISSUES WERE MORE APPROPRIATELY HANDLED IN MOSCOW, HE DID HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THEM, AND PERHAPS ANY RESPONSES COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED HIM IN GENEVA AS A COURTESY.

6. COMMENT: DELAY IN RAISING ISSUE OF SOVIET STATEMENT ON PROTOCOL II WITH TIMERBAEV WAS RESULT OF FACT THAT REF A WAS NOT SLUGGED FOR CTB DELEGATION OR NEIDLE AND WAS THEREFORE NOT BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION UNTIL FOUR DAYS AFTER RECEIPT. AUGUST 11 WAS EARLIEST TIME CONVENIENT FOR TIMERBAEV TO MEET WITH NEIDLE ON THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF FULL SCHEDULE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS HERE. TIMERBAEV ASSUMES THAT MAIN CHANNEL FOR FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE AMEMBASSY MOSCOW, AND WE SHARE HIS AND AMEMBASSY MOSCOW'S VIEW (REF B) THAT FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE IN MOSCOW RATHER THAN GENEVA. WE THEREFORE TRUST EMBASSY MOSCOW WILL CARRY THE BALL FROM HERE. NEIDLE

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